UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24336
22 July 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith a statement delivered on Wednesday, 22 July 1992, by the official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq concerning the decision to withdraw the inspection team from in front of the building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abd al-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

92-33333 3458d (E) 220792 220792

220792

/...

Annex

Statement by the spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The leader of the inspection team positioned in front of the building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation announced on the morning of Wednesday, 22 July 1992 that he had decided to withdraw the members of the inspection team from outside the building on the grounds that they had been threatened with physical violence and that the Government of Iraq had failed to fulfil its commitment to ensure the safety of the inspectors of the Special Commission.

Commenting on this statement, an authorized source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated the following:

Since the beginning of the work of the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq in April 1991 right up to now, the commitment of the Iraqi side has been to provide complete protection and security for the inspectors and members of the Special Commission working in Iraq. No member of the Special Commission or inspector has been exposed to any bodily harm or dangers of that kind throughout this period, even though some leaders and members of the inspection teams, including the Americans, tried in every way to incite and provoke the Iraqi officials and citizens, and these attempts at provocation were even reported in the world press. The French newspaper Libération on 22 October 1991 carried a statement by a French expert member of an inspection team of the Special Commission to the effect that the American inspectors had deliberately sought a confrontation with the Iraqi side, even hoping that one of the members of the mission would be killed, thereby justifying American intervention.

As regards the present inspection team that has been positioned since 5 July 1992 in front of the building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Iraqi side has provided it with all the protection requested, and we challenge the leader of the inspection team to mention a single incident in which any member of his team has been exposed to bodily harm, even though the team has been located in a street in the centre of Baghdad both day and night, and has sorely provoked the feelings of Iraqi citizens by taking up a position in front of the Ministry building, a symbol of the national sovereignty of the Iraqi people.

The decision to withdraw the inspection team stems from the dilemma in which the Special Commission found itself after Iraq had expressed its readiness to accept the formation of a neutral team to inspect the Ministry in order to ascertain the falsity of allegations concerning the presence of prohibited materials on its premises. The pretext of bodily harm is an idle one: it seems clear that the underlying intention is to create a situation enabling the influential members of the Security Council harbouring hostility towards Iraq to commit unlawful intervention, thereby achieving their political aims through aggression.